

2. **Settlement.**—The first settlement was by a small Maori party in 1853; afterwards a colony was settled from Sydney. Constitutionally, it is a dependency of New South Wales, and is included in the electorate of Sydney. A Board of Control manages the affairs of the island and supervises the palm seed industry referred to hereunder.

3. **Population.**—The population at the Census of 3rd April, 1921, was 65 males, 46 females—total 111.

4. **Production, Trade, etc.**—The principal product is the seed of the native or *Kentia* palm. The lands belong to the Crown. The occupants pay no rent, and are tenants on sufferance.

§ 5. Commercial and Industrial Bureau of the Board of Trade.

1. **Initiation.**—The initial step towards the creation of a trade promotion organization was taken in February, 1918, when the Prime Minister called a conference of the various associations connected with primary industries, manufactures, and commerce. On behalf of the Commonwealth Government the Prime Minister undertook to provide somewhat similar machinery to that set up by Governments of other countries with the object of co-operating with producers, manufacturers, and merchants in the improvement of methods and the finding of profitable markets. The proposals of the Government were endorsed by the conference, and the Bureau of Commerce and Industry was initiated, and, under the charge of a Director, attached to the Department of Trade and Customs.

Associated with the first Director, in an honorary capacity, there was a temporary general council containing representatives of the primary producers, the Associated Chambers of Manufactures, the Associated Chambers of Commerce, together with representatives of the banking, shipping, metals, coal and timber interests, and the Commercial Travellers' Association. The first Director resigned in March, 1919, and the new Director was later on appointed a member of the Board of Trade, and the Bureau of Commerce and Industry, as it was then termed, was merged into that body, under the title of "The Commercial and Industrial Bureau of the Board of Trade." The direction of the Bureau was assumed by the Board of Trade, and the temporary general council ceased to function.

2. **Functions.**—The functions of the Bureau now closely resemble those of the Departments of Trade of Great Britain and of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the United States of America, the two latter, in their present form, being comparatively recent creations. The aim of the Bureau is to foster and develop the foreign and domestic commerce, the manufacturing industries, and the transportation facilities of Australia.

Amongst its duties also are the direction of the work of the Trade Commissioner for the East, and the investigation of markets for Australian products. In fulfilling its prime function of assisting commerce and manufacturing, the Bureau collects information from the Australian Trade Commissioners, from British and foreign official sources, from Trade Representatives and other sources; and it distributes this information to the Council of Industrial Development of Western Australia, the Advisory Council of Science and Industry of South Australia, the Queensland State Trade Commissioner, Trade Associations, Chambers of Commerce and Manufactures in the various States, the Press, and sometimes confidentially to individuals.

3. **Activities.**—(i) *Nature of Inquiries dealt with.* Inquiries received and answered by the Bureau may, for convenience, be divided under two heads:—

- (a) *From Overseas manufacturers*—(1) The availability, cost and quality of raw materials. (2) Import duties. (3) Tariff considerations. (4) Rates of wage and labour conditions generally. (5) Assistance in transferring plant and skilled operatives. (6) Local markets and possibility of export, etc.

(b) *General inquiries*—(1) By oversea merchants asking to be put in touch with suitable representatives in Australia. (2) By Australian exporters asking to be put in touch with reliable representatives in oversea countries. (3) By Australian producers regarding possible markets, local and external, for their products. (4) By oversea buyers regarding supplies of materials produced in Australia. (5) General and technical inquiries for varied information by local merchants, manufacturers, and producers.

(ii) *The Woollen Manufacturing Industry.* The Bureau has been particularly active in its endeavours to assist in the development of the woollen manufacturing industry in Australia, and the ease with which some of the companies have been floated may, in some measure, be ascribed to the information collected and disseminated by the Bureau.

(iii) *Publications.* Further particulars concerning the activities of the Bureau may be found in the Reports which are issued annually.

§ 6. Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry.

1. *General.*—An account of the origin of the temporary Institute was given in Official Year Book No. 9, pp. 1135–8, while the progress of its activities has been outlined in succeeding issues.

The “Institute of Science and Industry Act 1920,” assented to 14th September, 1920, provides for the establishment of the Institute on a permanent basis.

The Act also provides that the Institute shall establish (a) a Bureau of Agriculture, (b) a Bureau of Industries, and (c) such other Bureaux as the Governor-General determines. Power is given for the establishment of a General Advisory Council and Advisory Boards in each State to advise the Director with regard to—(a) the general business of the Institute or any Bureau thereof, and (b) any particular matter of investigation or research.

The term for which the appointment of Director is made is five years, and any person so appointed shall at the expiration of his term of office be eligible for reappointment. The first director of the permanent Institute is Sir G. H. Knibbs, K.B., C.M.G., President of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, Hon. F.S.S., M.I.I.S., Hon. M.S.S., Paris, Hon. M. Amer., S.A., etc., etc., formerly Commonwealth Statistician, who was appointed on the 18th March, 1921.

Under the Act the Director shall co-operate, so far as is possible, with existing State organizations in the co-ordination of scientific investigations. The statutory powers and functions of the Director are as follow :—(a) the initiation and carrying out of scientific researches in connexion with, or for the promotion of, primary or secondary industries in Australia; (b) the establishing and awarding of industrial research studentships and fellowships; (c) the making of grants in aid of pure scientific research; (d) the recognition or establishment of associations of persons engaged in any industry or industries for the purpose of carrying out industrial scientific research, and the co-operation with and the making of grants to such associations when recognized or established; (e) the testing and standardization of scientific apparatus and instruments, and of apparatus, machinery, materials and instruments used in industry; (f) the establishment of a Bureau of Information for the collection and dissemination of information relating to scientific and technical matters; and (g) the collection and dissemination of information regarding industrial welfare and questions relating to the improvement of industrial conditions.

2. *Work of the Institute.*—The Institute has made investigations into various matters of importance to Australia, and has issued a number of bulletins and pamphlets. The subjects considered in previous years are briefly indicated on page 1037 of Year Book No. 15. The more important subjects studied in recent years are :—

A. *Agricultural and Pastoral Industries.* (i) Prickly Pear, (ii) White Ant Pest, (iii) Cereals, (iv) Viticultural Problems, (v) Sheep Blow-fly, (vi) Food Preservation, (vii) Cattle Tick, (viii) Castor Beans, (ix) Fruit By-products, (x) Dehydration of Fruit and Vegetables, (xi) Milk Products, (xii) Fertilizers, (xiii) Herbicides, (xiv) Animal Pests, (xv) Citrus Fruit Problems, (xvi) Bunchy-top of Bananas, (xvii) Seed Improvement.